

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A toggle clamp assist tool for a toggle clamp having a clamp jaw,
2 clamp arm, and clamp loop, the toggle clamp assist tool comprising:
3 a base member;
4 a clamp pin coupled to the base and configured to engage the clamp
5 loop of the toggle clamp;
6 an actuator mounted on the base and configured to contact the clamp
7 arm of the toggle clamp; and
8 a controller coupled to the actuator,
9 wherein the actuator is selectively in contact with the clamp arm of the
10 toggle clamp when the controller is activated.
- 1 2. The toggle clamp assist tool of claim 1, wherein the actuator is one of a
2 fluid cylinder and an electric apparatus.
- 1 3. The toggle clamp assist tool of claim 2, wherein the fluid cylinder is
2 one of a pneumatic cylinder and a hydraulic cylinder.
- 1 4. The toggle clamp assist tool of claim 2, wherein the electric apparatus
2 of one of an electric motor and a solenoid.
- 1 5. The toggle clamp assist tool of claim 1, including a handle mounted on
2 the base and configured to support the controller.
- 1 6. The toggle clamp assist tool of claim 1, wherein the controller is one of
2 a valve and a switch.
- 1 7. The toggle clamp assist tool of claim 5, wherein one of the base and
2 handle is composed of plastic.
- 1 8. The toggle clamp assist tool of claim 5, wherein one of the base and
2 handle is composed of metal.

- 1 9. A method of manipulating a work piece with a toggle clamp in a
2 leather treatment process with a toggle clamp assist tool having a base member, a
3 clamp pin, an actuator, and a controller coupled to the actuator, the toggle clamp
4 having a clamp jaw, clamp arm, clamp loop and toggle pin, and an associated rack
5 having a plurality of holes configured to engage the toggle pin, the method
6 comprising the steps of:
7 placing the clamp loop on the clamp pin of the toggle clamp assist tool;
8 manipulating the controller to activate the actuator to open the clamp
9 jaw;
10 placing the work piece in the clamp jaw;
11 manipulating the controller to activate the actuator to close the clamp
12 jaw onto the work piece;
13 pulling the toggle clamp assist tool a predetermined distance; and
14 inserting the toggle pin into one of the holes in the rack.
- 15 10. The method of claim 9, including the steps of repeating each of the
16 steps of claim 8 with a second toggle clamp assist tool.
- 1 11. The method of claim 9, including the steps of repeating each of the
2 steps of claim 8 with each of not less than three toggle clamp assist tools.
- 1 12. The method of claim 9, wherein the actuator is one of a fluid cylinder
2 and an electric apparatus.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the fluid cylinder is one of a
2 pneumatic cylinder and a hydraulic cylinder.
- 1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the electric apparatus is one of an
2 electric motor and a solenoid.
- 1 15. The method of claim 9, wherein the toggle assist tool includes a handle
2 mounted on the base and configured to support the controller.

1 16. The method of claim 9, wherein the controller is one of a valve and a
2 switch.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein one of the base and handle is
2 composed of plastic.

1 18. The method of claim 15, wherein one of the base and handle is
2 composed of metal.

1 19. A toggle clamp assist tool for a toggle clamp having a clamp jaw,
2 clamp arm, and clamp loop, the toggle clamp assist tool comprising:
3 a means for supporting;
4 a means for engaging coupled to the means for supporting and
5 configured to engage the clamp loop of the toggle clamp;
6 an means for actuating mounted on the means for supporting and
7 configured to contact the clamp arm of the toggle clamp; and
8 a means for controlling coupled to the means for actuating,
9 wherein the means for engaging is selectively in contact with the
10 clamp arm of the toggle clamp when the means for controlling is activated.

1 20. The toggle clamp assist tool of claim 19, wherein the means for
2 actuating is one of a fluid cylinder and an electric apparatus.

1 21. The toggle clamp assist tool of claim 19, including a means for holding
2 mounted on the means for supporting and configured to support the means for
3 controlling.